

**To:** Way, Steven[way.steven@epa.gov]  
**From:** Sorenson - DNR, Allen  
**Sent:** Fri 9/25/2015 5:00:06 AM  
**Subject:** Re: FW: questions----  
[kerry guy answers.docx](#)

Steve, see the attached. No change to your answer to #2, and I can't answer #5. All of this is described in excruciating detail in the memo I'm working on, which will be ready for internal review by Monday. My plan in to be in Silverton the week of Oct. 26 to fully set-up the vibrating wire piezometer, and maybe close the valve. We'll need a consensus on that I know, and the forthcoming memo is intended to facilitate. That same week. I'll swing through Rico and rig the brattice for the winter. Hope things are as well as they can be with you. Call anytime, and let me know how I can help.

On Thu, Sep 24, 2015 at 4:13 PM, Way, Steven <[way.steven@epa.gov](mailto:way.steven@epa.gov)> wrote:

Allen,

Would you be willing to weigh in on this given your detailed knowledge and analysis of these very topics. I am dealing several things right now and this apparently is an urgent matter .....one more...

Let me know – thank you,

Steve

Steven Way

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Emergency Response Unit

US EPA - Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

Office: [303-312-6723](tel:303-312-6723)

**From:** Guy, Kerry  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 3:02 PM  
**To:** Way, Steven  
**Subject:** questions----

1. What are the water elevation levels behind bulkheads 2 and 3 in the American Tunnel? What documents exist to show this data?

There are no pressure gauges (transducers) to determine the pressure/elevation behind the bulkheads in the American Tunnel. We do not know of any documents describing investigations to assess the water levels.

2. What stage is the EPA in the installation of bulkheads at Red and Bonita and at the Gold King Mine?

The Red and Bonita concrete bulkhead was placed on 26<sup>th</sup> of August, 2015. The bulkhead was installed with a pressure transducer and a pass through pipe for later shut off valve installation. Final grouting work remains before the bulkhead is complete.

No bulkhead has been installed on the Gold King. An assessment to evaluate the feasibility of installing a bulkhead in the Gold King mine has not been completed.

3. What effect would those two bulkheads have on the existing ones in the network of mines in the area?

4. Would it raise water levels inside the mountain behind the bulkheads 2 and 3 in the American Tunnel? If so, to what level?

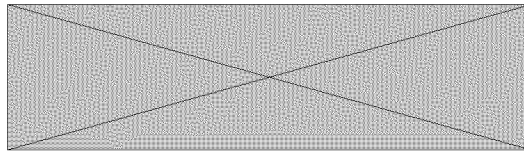
5. John Reynolds, a consultant for the mining industry based in Durango, delivered a letter to the EPA staff in Colorado last week about a possible consortium of mine operators, proposing a remediation plan. Is this something the EPA would consider? To what extent is the EPA communicating with this group?

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**Allen C. Sorenson**

Project Manager/Geological Engineer

Inactive Mine Reclamation Program



P 303.866.3567x8143 | F 303.832.8106 | C 303.263.7886

1313 Sherman Street #215, Denver, CO 80203

[allen.sorenson@state.co.us](mailto:allen.sorenson@state.co.us) | [www.mining.state.co.us](http://www.mining.state.co.us)